



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

Monthly Energy/Efficiency and Sustainability TIP SHEET December 2010

As part of its City Charter-defined mission to advise the Mayor and Common Council on environmental issues affecting the City, the Buffalo Environmental Management Commission submits a monthly "tip sheet" on a timely topic for information, review and consideration. This month's tip sheet showcases New York State's green remediation program.

A new policy that all investigation and remediation projects in New York State must incorporate green remediation concepts became effective on September 17th, 2010.

The NYSDEC's Department of Remediation (DER) finalized policy DER-31 in August and became effective in September 2010. The policy is profound in its impact and the program is the most rigorous of any State in the country. It requires that any report submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) during an investigation or remediation project must describe the green remediation/sustainability efforts. It also stipulates that all projects, both ongoing and in the future, must incorporate green remediation aspects within them.

DER-31 is a significant policy decision. New York State is a place of active and extensive development and this policy will apply to most cleanups including sites in the Brownfield Cleanup Program, Environmental Restoration Program, and State Superfund Program.

Developers will be required to seek creative solutions that genuinely benefit a site but also work on a practical and commercial level. The use of green remediation techniques to reduce the environmental footprint of cleanup activities and maximize the reuse of land will be a benefit to all parties.

The program will likely use a range of green remediation techniques, and just three that could be implemented on sites in New York State include:

- Incorporating greenhouse gas emission evaluations into the remedy selection process; including the use of recently developed software (SiteWise or Sustainable Remediation Tool);
- Utilizing solar powered remediation equipment, such as skimming systems or pumps;
- Cycling remediation systems to reduce power use.

A recently implemented cycling remediation system at a site in New York and saved over \$45,000 per year in energy costs.

If you have any questions regarding the tip sheet please contact Joe Gardella (Interim Chair, BEMC) at gardella@buffalo.edu or Dennis Sutton (BEMC support staff) at dsutton@city-buffalo.com. We look forward to any input on the monthly tip sheet.

BEMC members are willing to attend any meetings to promote implementation of these programs in the City of Buffalo. BEMC meets the third Wednesday of each month, 8:00 AM, 920 City Hall. The web site address for the BEMC is:

http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/CityServices/Environmental_Management_Commission